



The NZ TotZ is a competitive dance company designed for little ones who love to dance and perform.

Commitment: NZ TotZ participants are required to participate from August 2023 through Recital 2024 with the option of attending Nationals 2024. This is a serious commitment. Participants are expected to fulfill this obligation. All parents will be required to sign a parent agreement. The NZ TotZ attend 3-5 regional competitions/conventions – with 2-4 of these regional competitions/conventions being out-of-state, and 1 (optional) national competition/convention in the summer (usually at the end of June or early July). Dancers are required to participate in all regional competitions. All are mandatory, unless noted otherwise. Any violation of this handbook/commitment/contract may result in the dancer's immediate removal from the NZ TotZ program. If a dancer quits mid-season, said dancer is never allowed into the program again, unless special circumstance, which is approved beforehand by the Director. For any reason, at any time Karla has the right to dismiss a dancer/family from Expressenz Dance Center. If said dancer/family were to be dismissed and/or quits, no refunds will be given. This includes, and is not limited to costumes, costume fees, tuition, privates, performances fees and competitions fees.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory for all **NZ TotZ** classes. Ballet, jazz and tap technique, and rehearsal classes are extremely important. When it comes to school and family activities you will find Expressenz Dance Center to be accommodating and flexible. However, by accepting placement in this program, you have agreed that this is a priority in your schedule.

Missed classes for any reason other than illness or emergency must be cleared personally through Karla. Dancers are not allowed to come into the studio while sick. If a teacher believes they are ill they will be sent home. Dancers will not be allowed to come in "to watch" if ill. Dancers are only required to come in "to watch" if they are injured. In addition, dancers are only allowed 2 unexcused absences in a year. Student absences will be recorded, and any ballet/ jazz/ tap/ tumbling/technique missed must be made up as best as possible. Being a well-rounded individual is important, and we support students pursuing other activities. However, when it comes to participation on a competitive team, skills are constantly being taught....students must be present!

Injuries: We realize that injuries happen. Please be sure to notify Karla immediately when an injury occurs. As soon as possible provide proper documentation such as a doctor's note, physical therapy directions, etc to NZ Staff. Note that injured dancers are expected to attend all rehearsals and classes unless specified by Karla, NZ Totz Director. Please note that no refunds or credits will be given during the time a dancer is required to sit-out/observe due to an injury. When a dancer must sit out while healing, it can be a very valuable time for them to gain new insight into their technique/routines and play an active role as a teammate.

Financial Commitment:

- Being in a program such as this requires a certain financial commitment
- Registration fee \$75 (\$35 for additional dancers in the same immediate family)
- Base fee for NZ TotZ (including Ballet Expressenz program dues, rehearsal and required technique classes)

NZ TotZ:

- \$200 a month (family discount \$195 for second dancer and \$190 for third+ dancer) Includes: 1 ballet technique, 1 combined jazz technique/stretch, 1 tap technique, 30 minute rehearsal & BNZ program dues

All additional ballet technique, tumbling, jazz technique classes cost \$40.00 per class each month, as well as any other additional class added which is not on your schedule.

Technique Privates: Lessons cost \$45.00 a ½ hour.

Technique Semi- Privates (Privates with 2 dancers): Lessons cost \$60.00 a ½ hour.

Payment for classes is due on the first of every month. **Any payment for classes made after the 7th will be assessed a late charge of \$25.00.**

Competition/Conventions Fees: Fees associated with each competition/convention are based upon prices set by the competition/convention itself. These generally run around \$50-\$65 per person per group routine. Solos are \$80-\$155 per competition solo entry. Convention participation fees generally run between \$195-\$250. Fees for competitions/conventions are due to the studio by the due date indicated on the invoice. In most instances this is 45-60 days prior to/in advance of each competition. **Missing an assigned due date will result in a \$25 late fee.** Please note that there is a \$4.00 administrative processing fee placed per entry for competitions. An additional \$10 convention fee and an additional \$20 Nationals fee will be applied on all convention and Nationals invoices (if a dancer participates). **NO DANCER WILL BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE IF FEES ARE NOT PAID.**

Solo Fees (only applies to some): The solo fee is \$395.00 for a NZ TotZ solo (all fees must be paid prior to the start of the routine choreography—no exceptions). This fee includes 3, one-hour private rehearsals or 6, half hour private rehearsals. After that, students pay the private lesson rate of \$45.00 a half hour. Private lesson dates and times are indicated in the dancer's audition results schedule, if applicable. The NZ TotZ Registration fee of \$75 must also be paid prior to the start of the solo.

- Letters of Commitment, registration fees, and registration form must be signed and turned into Expressenz before choreography begins
- Soloists are required to come up with own costume
- Soloists costume options include borrowing, buying, or custom-made costumes
- No refunds or credit will be issued on solo, duo, or trio fees
- All solo, duo, or trio choreography (including guest choreography) is property of Expressenz Dance Center and cannot be used without Expressenz Dance Center's permission
- Dancers wanting to use an outside choreographer or choreography of someone who we do not bring into the studio must get permission and approval
- Parents are not allowed to contact guest choreographers that we bring into the studio
- Expressenz Dance Center will select the choreographer
- Choreographer/Teacher has final decision on the style of dance, all music, and choreography
- Dancers who are invited and accept placement to routines that are choreographed by an outside guest choreographer, please note additional varying fees will apply

Make-Up and Costumes: Specific make-up is required for NZ TotZ and will also need to be purchased.. Everyone is required to purchase the same eye shadow, blush, lipstick, and lip liner. A separate costume will be chosen for each routine that a dancer is selected. By accepting placement in this program, you agree to purchase and wear the costumes designed by the director or choreographer. We usually try to keep the cost between \$200-\$300ish a piece per custom-made costume. (These numbers do not include sales tax.) Dancer's will not receive their costume until it is paid in full. **Missing an assigned due date will result in a \$25 late fee.**

Ballet Expressenz Nutcracker sometimes require the cost of a separate leotard costume and/or costume (est. price range \$25-\$85 before sales tax).

Please note the costume deposit schedule:

- NZ TotZ Costume Deposit - \$95.00 per costume per routine due on September 1st, 2023.
- Soloists are required to come up with their own costume. Soloists' costume options can include borrowing, buying, or custom-made costumes.

Missing an assigned due date will result in a \$25 late fee. This includes all fees & invoices.

PLEASE NOTE that these are costume *deposits*. The additional cost per costume will be billed at a later date. If a NZ TotZ member violates this handbook/ commitment/ contract and quits or is dismissed from the NZ TotZ program for any reason, there will be NO refunds on any costume deposits and/or costume amounts paid. Expressenz Dance Center owns the costumes and also maintains the right to keep any partial or completed costumes.

Every dancer is required to have each and every piece of their costume when attending competitions.

Nutcracker Participation fee: All NZ TotZ members are required to pay the fee when due (\$125)

Recital Participation fee: All NZ TotZ members are required to pay the fee when due (\$100). *June tuition must be paid in full in order for a dancer to participate in the recital.*

Tights: All dancers are required to purchase their tights through the studio for Nutcracker and competition.

Team Warm-Ups: All NZ TotZ members are required to purchase a team warm-up jacket. NZ TotZ members must have it on at all times during competitions. Warm-up order forms will be emailed out to families in early August.

The Competition Experience: It is important to understand that the “competition” aspect of being a member of The NZ TotZ should be considered a “performance” opportunity. Competition results are strictly a subjective opinion, and your child’s growth should not be completely gauged by their scores or achievements at competitions. It is important to keep your competition experience positive and most importantly, be proud of the growth and development that takes place within your child. We do not foster competition within our Company or NZ TotZ. All we ask from our students is that each child works to their full capacity. We understand that each child is a gift to us, and each is uniquely different.

Extra Practices: On occasion a teacher may find it important to add additional rehearsals before a competition. We make every effort to give enough notice so families are able to coordinate their schedules. These practices do not cost extra money. They usually take place on Friday afternoons and/or Sundays. Remember these are to benefit the dancers. We all want them to be comfortable and to dance their best. Sometimes due to weather cancellations or other issues a routine just needs some extra time.

Competitions/Conventions: The competition/convention schedule for the 2023-2024 season will be announced in August at the NZ TotZ parent meeting VIA ZOOM on August 1st at 8:00pm. All dancers are required to participate in all regional competitions/conventions. The NZ TotZ attend 3-5 regional competitions/conventions – with 2-4 of those regional competitions/conventions being out-of-state, and 1 (optional) national competition/convention in the summer (usually at the end of June or early July). Every effort is made to select competitions that will provide our dancers and their families with the best experience possible. Families are responsible for their transportation and hotel to all competitions/conventions (in and out of state). Any cash prize awarded at a competition will go to the studio, with the exception of a cash prize for a solo which protocol is further delineated in **Competition/Convention Solo Awards**. Any issue or disgruntlement with a competition or convention needs to be brought to the attention of Karla. Dancers, parents, or family members are not allowed to contact or complain to the competition, convention staff, or management.

Expressenz Dance Center approaches competition with a few things in mind:

- Learn to work on a team and build confidence.
- Fun Family Activity- Expressenz wants to attend competitions that are fun for the whole family. Students learn team-building skills, performing arts skills, and develop self-confidence that will last a lifetime. Having fun is the number one priority for this program.

Competition/Convention Solo Awards: If a dancer receives a cash award and/or gift certificate at a competition for a solo or a scholarship at a convention, the parent/dancer are responsible for notifying Expressenz Dance Center. Parents must notify the studio via email and/or submit all information and documents needed to the front office within **2 weeks after said cash award and/or gift certificate at a competition for a solo or a scholarship at a convention** was received. You will not receive a credit towards your account for the cash award and/or gift certificate from a competition or convention for a solo or scholarship **until** the said competition and/or convention has approved and applied your cash award and/or gift certificate. Your scholarships won with Expressenz can only be used if you are still dancing with Expressenz. Scholarships will not be transferred or released in the event that you quit or are no longer a member of Expressenz.

Optional Convention/Competitions: NZ TotZ dancers have the option to attend convention/competitions with The NZ Dance Company if it is not already mandatory for them (some are optional, some are mandatory). Please notify the studio 90 days in advance if you would like to attend a convention/competition with The NZ Dance Company. Additional fees will apply.

Additional Independent Competition/Conventions: There will be an additional, non-refundable, administration fee of \$50 to register a dancer for any extra competition/conventions they would like to attend that requires the studio to register the dancer. The dancer’s account at Expressenz must be current before an outside, extra registration of a competition/convention occurs. All additional independent competitions/conventions registration requests must be made 45 days in advance. All requests must be made via the google forms education pass request (this link will be sent out via email before the season begins).

Optional National Competition: Nationals always take place out of the state and are optional for NZ TotZ members. Families are responsible for their transportation and hotel. The studio will try to give recommendations and guidance regarding lodging if needed. Nationals are typically from 4 to 8 days (depending on the nationals we are attending). Dancers need to arrive sometime the day before they begin and leave the day after the final day. Some families

choose to room and/or carpool together to save money. Nationals is a fun activity for the whole family and a great way to conclude a fabulous season! It is a great opportunity to meet and watch dancers from throughout the United States. Karla will announce the national's location for the new dance season in August.

Nutcracker: NZ TotZ members are required to participate in our annual Nutcracker in December 2023. The dancers will have mandatory rehearsals that meet on Sunday afternoons that will begin in September and last through December. Only in the event of a family emergency, or cleared absence through the studio, will students be allowed to miss the Nutcracker performances and/or dress rehearsals.

Spring Showcase: The NZ TotZ members are required to participate in the 2023-2024 Spring Showcase. This means that NZ TotZ routines will be placed throughout the day in the shows. Only in the event of a family emergency will students be allowed to miss the Spring Showcase performances and/or dress rehearsals.

Parent Roles: Expressenz Dance Center is a drama free zone! Parents are expected to be supportive, respectful, and courteous to all team members and their families at all times. This studio will not tolerate rudeness, jealousy, resentment, or disrespect to another team member, their family, a teacher, nor the director. It makes no difference to this studio how good your child is or who you are...you are not permitted to bring any negativity whatsoever into this facility, which is full of fabulous families and kids.

Your role is the following:

- Lift up and support all of our children
- Teach your child to be happy for others
- Give a hand to those who may be behind or struggling
- Stand firmly behind the teaching staff
- Work with the teaching staff, showing your child that you are behind their coaches

Endnotes: We are very excited to be offering this program to our little ones who love to dance and perform. This program will highlight those who want a committed program above that of pre-company and/or recreational classes. NZ TotZ is a great stepping stone into competition dance and the commitment it requires. We cannot wait to see our NZ TotZ shine on stage.

NZ TotZ/Ballet Expressenz Letter of Commitment

This correspondence serves as an agreement between you and The NZ TotZ, as produced and directed by Karla N. Curatolo, Owner and Director of Expressenz Dance Center. Your child has been selected to be a member of the 2023-24 NZ TotZ, an honor as well as privilege. Your signature below indicates that you have read and fully understand all of the requirements associated with participating in the program, as outlined in your NZ TotZ Handbook. Furthermore, your signature indicates your acceptance of those terms and conditions, and that you are well aware of the commitment involved in this program.

Parent: *Please be sure you feel comfortable with your ability to handle the fees incurred for this activity, as with most competitive activities, there are many uncontrollable circumstances and we don't want to catch anyone off guard.*

*Monthly tuition, convention/competition fees, costume deposits, costume fees, etc., all have due dates. Monthly Tuition is due at the beginning of each month and is late after the 7th. All other fees are late after the posted due dates. A late fee of \$25 will be added to any late payments. A \$35 bank fee will be assessed for a non-sufficient funds payment/canceled/returned payment, as well as a corresponding late fee of \$25. It is each parent's responsibility to be aware of fees due, schedule changes, etc. We suggest coming into the studio at least weekly to check for news, and to check emails for studio information and updates daily. Commitment to this program means that you will honor attendance requirements for all classes and competitions. **Families are required to pay full August-June tuition.** _____ Initial*

Your commitment to this program means you will be respectful to all teachers and teammates at all times. We will not tolerate racism, inappropriate and unkind social media posts (private or public), or bullying of any kind, dishonesty, from dancer to dancer, dancer to parent, parent to dancer, or parent to parent. If a dancer is dismissed or quits from the program, I understand that there will be NO REFUND on any fees and/or payments.

*In addition to the above, we understand a violation of the commitment to this program/contract has **SERIOUS** consequences that may result in being permanently dismissed from the program.*

If dancer/family were to be dismissed and/or quits Totz no refunds will be given. this includes and is not limited to costumes, costume fees, tuition, privates, performance fees and competitions fees. _____ Initial

I have read the above information and will be responsible for my child's account and activity requirements. I will follow the rules, policies and procedures of the studio as outlined in the NZ TotZ Handbook. _____ Initial

Parent signature: _____

Parent printed name: _____

Dancer printed name: _____ Date: _____

Please return this signed agreement to the front desk by August 1, 2023. Please complete one form for each of your children who have accepted placement in The NZ TotZ.